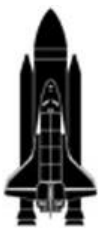


Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mission nearly complete for Atlantis crew

TDRS communications satellite next NASA launch from Cape



▲ **Mission Update:** The crew of Space Shuttle Atlantis is completing mission activities to repair equipment in the Zarya control module of the International Space Station. Along with batteries, the crew has installed 10 new smoke detectors, four cooling fans, and new cabling for the module's central computer. Plus the astronauts have transferred such items as exercise equipment and computer printers to the Station for use by future crews. Atlantis is scheduled to land at the Shuttle Landing Facility on Monday, May 29, at 2:19 a.m.

◆ **ELV Update:** The next launch of a NASA payload is the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite known as TDRS-H. The TDRS will serve as the sole means of continuous, high-data-rate communication with the Space Shuttle, with the International Space Station upon its completion, and with dozens of unmanned scientific satellites in low earth orbit. It is scheduled to be launched June 29 aboard an Atlas IIA/Centaur rocket currently being erected at Launch Pad 36A, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The satellite is scheduled to arrive at the Shuttle Landing Facility on Friday, May 26 to begin processing.



◆ **Congratulations** are in order for all NASA/KSC employees who are being recognized at a special **Honor Awards Ceremony** today for their superior efforts and contributions to the Center. The two-hour ceremony is taking place at the KSC Visitor Complex starting at 9 a.m. Awards will be presented by Center Director Roy Bridges and Deputy Center Director Jim Jennings.

◆ **Space Days at the Visitor Complex:** The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex annual Space Days 2000 explores both the scientific and science fiction of life possibly existing on other planets. The activities begin on **Saturday, May 27, 2000, and continue through Monday, May 29.** An array of space-related special guests includes television celebrities Nichelle Nichols, *Lt. Uhura* from the original *Star Trek* series, as well as cast members from the popular series the *X-Files*; William B. Davis, *Cigarette Smoking Man*, and Tom Braidwood, *Frohickie*, a member of the Lone Gunmen. An actual SETI scientist will conduct presentations and answer guests' questions. On hand will also be Apollo astronauts T.K. (Ken) Mattingly and Walt Cunningham, as well as Shuttle astronauts Mike Mullane, Dr. Story Musgrave and Rick Searfoss. Employees can buy a discounted ticket for Space Days at the NASA Exchange outlets or buy one \$24 ticket to the VC that also becomes a 12-month pass for Brevard residents.



◆ **Did You Know?** Americans are being asked to take one minute on Memorial Day, May 29 – at 3 p.m. – to think of the men and women who died to ensure freedom around the world. It is being compared to “The Great Silence” in Great Britain in 1918 when the armistice ended the fighting of World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11 month. People stopped where they were at that moment to reflect on the sacrifice of a generation in what was referred to as the “Great War.” The tradition continues in England and now U.S. DoD officials are encouraging American service members to participate in a similar way. The coordinator for the National Moment of Remembrance asks all Americans to take part in The Great Silence on May 29.★

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

Deadlines: 10 a.m. the day before. Send information, comments or questions to:

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Countdown on the Internet -- <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/2000/2000.htm>